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Hundreds of Albany Technical College students accept diplomas, certificates and degrees Friday.

ALBANY, Ga. — U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop, D-Albany, congratulated and challenged students graduating from various programs of study at Albany Technical College Friday to take their knowledge and leave a lasting mark on the world during his commencement address.

The son of the first president of Bishop State College in Mobile, Ala., Bishop told the students of the value of their education while pointing to the future and the roles he said they were poised to

take in moving the country forward.

“How will anyone ever know that you were here on Earth?,” Bishop asked. “What indeed is, or will be, your footprint?”

Bishop thanked the families, friends and faculty that guided the students, and urged the students to take the tools they had been given by those people.

“No matter what your area of study, you have been empowered; you have been given tools to advance yourself,” he said.

Hundreds of students crossed the stage Friday in front of a packed gymnasium at Albany State University. Students were awarded in 16 different degree fields from Accounting to Radiologic Technology; 34 different diploma fields including Business Logistics and Management and Early Childhood Care and Education; and 18 different certificate fields.

Also recognized were students who completed coursework to obtain their General Educational Development certificates (GED).

“Each of you have an opportunity to make a positive difference wherever you go, and each of you have been given the tools here at Albany Technical College to better yourself and lead the world,” Bishop said.